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Travis Barker Talks 'Dark and Moody' Remix Of Eminem's '3 A.M.'

'There's not many songs I hear and trip out on, but this was one of them,' drummer says of the 'Relapse' track.

By James Montgomery

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It's one of the darkest, goriest songs on an album positively oozing with dark and gory songs. That's why [artist id="1526529"]Travis Barker[/artist] knew he had to record a version of [artist id="502642"]Eminem[/artist]'s "3 A.M."

"I first heard it on some blogs, and right away, I was like, 'Oh, damn, this is *demonic,*' and I love stuff like that." Barker laughed. "So I spoke to [[artist id="783"]Blink-182[/artist] and Eminem manager] Paul Rosenberg and said I wanted to do a remix of it, then Em and I spoke and discussed putting a rock twist on the song, and I got to it."

So, over the course of four very short days -- during breaks from rehearsals for [article id="1611704"]Blink's upcoming tour[/article] -- Barker and a pair of his engineer pals laid down live guitar and bass tracks (and, of course, a healthy dose of his patented precise-yet-pounding drums). He sent them to Em for some tweaking, then put the finished product up on YouTube, and the rest is history.

"There's not many songs I hear and trip out on, but this was one of them. The song is really dark and moody, and so that's what I wanted the remix to be," Barker said. "And it was cool, because I got to work with Eminem the producer, which is something that I don't think a lot of people get to do. He listened to it, made some tweaks and gave it the OK."

And for Barker, it was a welcome return to [article id="1579794"]the world of remixing[/article] -- a world he's dominated over the past years with his takes on Flo Rida's "Low" and Soulja Boy's "Crank That." He had to take a break from remixing while recovering from the dozens of surgeries he endured after walking away from [article id="1595303"]a fiery South Carolina plane crash[/article] last year.

"I hadn't done one since I was out of the hospital, so it was time, you know?" Barker said. "This was a dope-ass song, and when things come at me that I love, I pursue them. I was due for one, and it won't be the last."